

**MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP  
OPEN SPACE & FARMLAND PRESERVATION COUNCIL  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, September 24, 2009**

Ms. Butch called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

The Secretary read the Adequate Notice.

**Roll Call**

Present: (5) Blanco, Butch, Denardo, Kau, Siedman

Absent: (6) Alves, Asprocolas, Kuczinski, Morelli, Romano, Schloss

**Public Comment**

The public comment portion of the meeting was opened at 7:36 pm and with no public in attendance was closed at 7:36 pm.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Mr. Blanco with a second offered by Ms. Siedman to approve the August 27, 2009, minutes. Roll call vote:

Ayes (3) Blanco, Siedman, Butch

Nays (0)

**Correspondence/News Releases/Announcements**

- ***Office of the Governor press release dated 8/18/09*** RE: Green Acres, Water Supply, and Floodplain Protection and Farmland and Historic Preservation Bond Act of 2009; there will be a bond referendum question on the November 2009 ballot.
- ***Monmouth Conservation Foundation dated 9/15/09*** RE: Public Question #1: the NJ Keep It Green Campaign is soliciting donations and pushing for the passage of the bond referendum; they are asking each town to pass a resolution supporting the bond referendum.

**Old Business**

- ***Trails***
  - **Industrial Park:** Nothing reported.
- ***Trail Grant Work***
  - Trail work will resume in fall.
- ***Farm Leases on Township-owned Open Space***
  - The current lease has been extended through June 30, 2010.
  - Bids will go out shortly with a term of July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2011.
- ***Capital-to-Coast Bike Trail***
  - There will be a meeting in October; Council members interested in looking into a bike trail are welcome to attend.
- ***Hand-held GPS for Stewardship***
  - The Secretary distributed information received from Township engineering inspector, Dan Specht, for three different GPS units.
  - Ms. Siedman and Mr. Denardo will research the different types of GPS devices.

- Mr. Kau asked if the rental income from the former Lee farm lease could be used toward the purchase of a GPS unit; Ms. Butch will look into where the farm lease income is deposited and if the money could be used towards the purchase of a GPS unit.
- The GPS device is needed immediately to properly steward conservation easements.
- Grant research can continue after the purchase of the GPS.
- Mr. Denardo will contact the engineering inspector to discuss which GPS model would be most suitable for the Council's stewardship needs.
- A motion was made by Mr. Denardo with a second offered by Mr. Blanco and all in favor to support the GPS model that is recommended by Avakian Engineering and Mr. Denardo.

## **New Business**

- ***The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual New Jersey Land Conservation Rally*** will be held on Saturday, March 20, 2010, at the Montclair State University conference center.

## **Events**

- ***Possible Open House at Remarkable Sites:*** Discussion tabled until next month due to Ms. Schloss' absence.
- ***Millstone Day 2009 Review***
  - Millstone Day was not as busy for the Council due to the absence of the mechanical bull and the money machine.
  - The appearance of Miss New Jersey was a big success for the Ag Council.
  - Assemblywoman Caroline Casagrande presented Miss New Jersey with a Proclamation from the State.
  - The apples, donated by Asprocolas Acres, were very popular.
  - The Council did not take in any money this year.
- ***Pleasure Pace***
  - Scheduled for Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup>.
  - The Open Space Council is co-sponsoring the event.
  - The event will begin at 8:00 am and teams will be leaving between 8:00 am and 12 noon.
  - 40 teams consisting of 2 to 3 riders per team have registered.
  - Ms. Siedman, Ms. Schloss, Mr. Kau and Mr. Kuczinski have volunteered to help at the event.
  - The State Police will be manning two of the four road crossings and DPW will be manning the other two road crossings.

## **Committee Reports**

- ***Finance/Open Space Trust:*** The Open Space Trust account activity through August was distributed for review.
- ***Preservation Signage:*** Nothing to report.
- ***Public Relations/Publications***
  - Fall 2009 Newsletter articles:
    - Bond referendum. (Ms. Schloss)
    - Pleasure Pace. (possibly Audrey Ginolfi)
    - Farm Market.
    - Millstone Day/Miss New Jersey; Miss America contest support.
    - Trail access and the new trails on Agress Road.

- Ms. Siedman will reach out to Mr. Wingerter regarding the feasibility of a 2010 Clambake.
- **Legislative Awareness:** The bond referendum question was discussed under “Correspondence”.
- **Stewardship**
  - There haven’t been any site visits since the last meeting.
  - The new site assessment form needs to be updated with grading points; Ms. Butch suggested that the Land Acquisition subcommittee meet in October to discuss the grading scale.
  - The County is asking the Township to have properties ranked so that when funds become available, the Township can move quickly through the Green Light approval process.
  - Mr. Blanco offered to join the Land Acquisition subcommittee.
- **Watershed Committee Liaison:** A meeting has not been held; nothing to report.
- **Recreation Planning Committee:** The committee hasn’t met; nothing to report.
- **Review Planning Board and Board of Adjustment Applications:** Ms. Butch did not attend the September 23<sup>rd</sup> Board of Adjustment meeting; Ms. Butch will provide an update next month.

At 8:09 pm, a motion was made by Mr. Blanco with a second offered by Mr. Kau and by unanimous vote the Council moved to executive session.

At 8:32 pm, the Council returned to regular session. Having no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Kau with a second offered by Mr. Denardo and by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Maher